

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-15 remain pending in the application.

Claims 12-15 over Borland

In the Office Action, claims 12-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,128,382 to Borland ("Borland"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 12-15 recite activating an analog ring signal bypass module based on a request from a calling party without prompt from a voice messaging system, and bypassing an audible ring signal.

Borland appears to disclose telephone system 100 comprising a no-ring switch 130 (Fig. 3). The telephone system 100 further comprises a keypad 120 (Borland, Fig. 3). The no-ring switch and telephone keypad are used to disable the ring function for the telephone system 100 (Boland, col. 5, lines 1-8). A prompt is given to the caller to leave a message or to ring the called party (Borland, col. 6, lines 29-38).

Thus, Borland discloses, as acknowledged by the Examiner, that a caller is prompted to leave a message or choose to ring the called party. Borland fails to disclose or suggest activating an analog ring signal bypass module based on a request from a calling party without prompt from a voice messaging system, and bypassing an audible ring signal, as recited by claims 12-15.

A benefit of activating an analog ring signal bypass module based on a request from a calling party without prompt from a voice messaging system is, e.g., lack of delays. Prompts slow down the process of performing processes within a voice messaging system. By performing actions directly through a keypad or other input options a ring signal can be suppressed at a called voice messaging system without delay associated with going through a verbal prompting system.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 12-15 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 and 8-11 over Koyama in view of Borland

In the Office Action, claims 1-6 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 5,894,505 to Koyama (“Koyama”) in view of Borland. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 1-6 and 8-11 recite an analog non-ring signal initiated by a caller without prompt from a voice messaging system.

Koyama appears to disclose a telephone answering machine that outputs a first or second outgoing message based on calling party information (Abstract). A polarity reverse signal is used to indicate that the transmission of the calling party information has been started (Koyama, col. 10, lines 3-8).

The Examiner alleges that Koyama discloses a ring signal bypass module adapted to detect a presence of an analog non-ring signal by disclosing a polarity reverse signal (Office Action, page 6). However, Koyama discloses that the polarity reverse signal indicates the start of transmission of calling party information, having nothing to do with suppressing ringing, i.e., a non-ring signal.

The Office Action acknowledged that Koyama fails to disclose a voice messaging system to direct an incoming call to a voice recorder/playback module without an audible ring signal to announce the incoming call by the system (Office Action, page 6). However, the Office Action relies on Borland to allegedly make up for the deficiencies in Koyama to arrive at the claimed invention. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Borland discloses a prompt by the voice messaging system to determine whether the voice messaging system with produce an audible ring. Borland fails to disclose or suggest an analog non-ring signal initiated by a caller without prompt from a voice messaging system, as recited by claims 1-6 and 8-11.

At best, even if the theoretical combination of Koyama and Borland were obvious (which it is not), the result would be a voice messaging system that would prompt a caller with differing outgoing messages based on calling party information. The theoretical combination of Koyama and Borland still fails to

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disclose or suggest or suggest an analog non-ring signal initiated by a caller without prompt from a voice messaging system, as recited by claims 1-6 and 8-11.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6 and 8-11 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W H Bollman', written over a horizontal line.

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